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TO: The Secretary
THROUGH: S/S
FROM: EUR - Richard H. Davis
SUBJECT: Allied Autobahn Convoys

Following the U.S. and U.K. autobahn incidents the Allies have agreed on harmonized procedures and today have communicated a summary of those procedures related to dismounting and tailgates to the Soviets. This was accomplished through the Soviet Military Liaison Missions in the Federal Republic and at the Marienborn checkpoint.

The question now arises as to when we will resume sending non-dismount convoys. In coordination with the Joint Staff and ISA we have prepared the attached draft message from JCS to USCINCEUR. It is my understanding that this message has been approved by Defense. Ambassador Thompson has seen it and concurred. I am not sure of the status within the JCS.

I have sent it to you at this time because I understand that there is a possibility it will come up at the meeting at the White House at 4 o'clock which you are attending.

Recommendation

If this message comes up at the White House I recommend that you support its transmission as soon as possible.

BTF:JCAusland

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DRAFT MESSAGE TO USCINCEUR

References: A. WAGTO 21 B. JCS 3013 C. SHLO 600/128
D. JCS 3270

1. Reference A contains tripartitely agreed standardized autobahn convoy procedures and notification to Soviets of simplified procedures.
2. Reference B prohibiting non-dismountable convoys hereby rescinded. First convoy should be despatched eastbound 1 November, unless you recommend otherwise.
3. Following criteria will govern first non-dismountable convoy:
 - a. Convoy will contain more than 8 vehicles, and advance notification will be given.
 - b. No single vehicle will contain more than 7 passengers.
 - c. Convoy will contain no more than 25 passengers.
4. You are authorized thereafter resume sending non-dismountable convoys at frequency comparable period prior 10-12 October incidents.
5. In event convoys are denied clearance by Soviets, provisions of SHLO 600/128 will be implemented subject to following consideration: Until further notice, whenever US Berlin Commandant determines that time limits should be given to Soviets (SHLO 600/128 paragraphs 1(c), 3(b), 5(b), 6(b) or 7(c)), unless circumstances prevent, higher authority should be notified sufficiently in advance to permit State-Defense authorities time evaluate advisability of giving time limit in light of all other aspects of situation at the time.

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